

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 10402 030842Z

22 10

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-05 H-01 L-01 PRS-01 USIA-01 EUR-08

/051 W

----- 100104

R 030750Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1874

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10402

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HK VN

SUBJECT: SRV REPRESENTATION IN HONG KONG

1. WE HAVE NOTICED THAT THE SRV TRADE REPRESENTATIVES IN HONG KONG ARE MAINTAINING A SOMEWHAT HIGHER PROFILE RECENTLY. TWO OF THEIR FOUR-MAN STAFF HAVE ATTENDED THE SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS IN AUGUST AND CIRCULATED VIRGOROUSLY, SEEMINGLY ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH MANY OF THE OTHER GUESTS EXCEPT, OF COURSE, AMERICANS. HKG POLAD TOLD US THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE PRESSING FOR A LARGER MISSION (UP TO NINE) AND THAT THE SIZE OF STAFF IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN ONE OF THREE ELEMENTS IN NEGOTIATIONS IN HANOI OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE OTHERS BEING OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS AND AND BRITISH ACCESS TO SAIGON. AT SOME POINT, BRITS HAVE OR WILL AGREE TO INCREASING THE PRESENT COMPLEMENT BY ONE TO A TOTAL OF FIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 10402 030842Z

2. MEANWHILE, SPECULATION CONTINUES AMONG FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES HERE OVER BOTH HKG AND SRV INTENTIONS AS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EVENTUAL SRV CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. NOT THE LEAST INTERESTED ARE THE PRC CADRE WHO HAVE IN VARIOUS WAYS BEEN PROBING ON THIS QUESTION. IN THAT CONNECTION, DONALD ALLAN DONALD TOLD ME OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH LI CHU-SHENG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NCNA AND THE DE FACTO LEADER OR AT LEAST THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE PRC TOP BRASS IN HONG KONG.

3. IT SEEMS THAT A FEW DAYS AGO DONALD AND LI WERE ATTENDING A BANQUET WHICH WAS WELL LUBRICATED WITH MAO TAI. THE SUBJECT OF VIET-NAM WAS RAISED BY LI WHO ASKED POINT BLANK WHETHER THE SRV HAD YET APPLIED FOR A CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. DONALD WAS ABLE TO SAY THAT THEY HAD NOT FORMALLY DONE SO ALTHOUGH THEY HAD HINTED AT IT. LI THEN INQUIRED WHETHER DONALD THOUGHT THE SRV REALLY WANTED TO ESTABLISH THAT FORM OF PRESENCE HERE. DONALD REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BUT SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE SRV WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACTUALLY TRY. LI SEEMED SURPRISED WITH THIS ANSWER AND ASKED WHY, WHEREUPON DONALD SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE THE SRV WISHED TO RETAIN A COMRADELY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC, HIS POINT BEING THAT THE VIETNAMESE KNEW THE PRC HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE STATUS OF HONG KONG AND IF THE SRV ESTABLISHED A CONSULATE GENERAL HERE IT WOULD INDICATE RECOGNITION OF A SEPERATE STATUS FOR THE TERRITORY. LI THEN REMARKED IN CHINESE, "YOU AREN'T QUITE DRUNK YET," WHICH IN THE SINGAL-PASSING ATMOSPHERE OF HONG KONG MEANT TO DONALD THAT LI WAS SAYING THAT DONALD WAS MAKING SENSE AND THAT HE AGREED WITH THE BRITISH FEELING ON THE MATTER AND THE BRITISH OPPOSITION TO AN SRV CONSULATE GENERAL.

4. DONALD ASKED THAT THIS STORY BE CLOSELY HELD SINCE HE IS HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN PHRASING HIS REPORT TO LONDON BUT HE REMAINS CONVINCED HE RECEIVED AN AUTHENTIC EXPRESSION OF CHINESE VIEWS. THE FCO IS REGARDED BY HKG AS WOBBLY ON THE SUBJECT OF SRV REPRESENTATION IN HONG KONG AND IT MIGHT NOT BE OVERLY IMPRESSED WITH THIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 10402 030842Z

KIND OF DRINKING TALE OR THAT PRC/HK RELATIONS ARE BEST CONDUCTED IN THIS SUBTLE, AND PLEASANT, WAY.
CROSS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK10402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760334-1073
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760994/aaaadcgn.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRV REPRESENTATION IN HONG KONG
TAGS: PFOR, HK, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006